

Message Text

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ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 EUR-08 PM-03 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1193

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2241

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, TU
SUBJ: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: (A) 77 STATE 184038 B) 77 ANKARA 6107
C) 77 STATE 279674 D) 77 ANKARA 8860
E) 77 STATE 298258

1. DESPITE REPEATED INQUIRIES TO TURKISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS, EMBASSY HAS NOT OBTAINED RESPONSE--EITHER YES OR NO--TO OUR REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO USE INCIRLIK CDI AS EMERGENCY LANDING SITE FOR SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. WE THINK THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO RESPOND SO LONG AS U.S. CONGRESS HAS NOT APPROVED DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT(DCA) WITH TURKEY.
2. HALUK OZGUL, MFA DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AGREEMENTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, IS, IN FACT, ACTION OFFICER ON THIS REQUEST. ALTHOUGH OZGUL HAS REPEATEDLY PROMISED TO PROVIDE PROMPT RESPONSE, HE HAS YET TO DO SO. ON MARCH 21, WHILE EXCEEDINGLY APOLOGETIC, OZGUL FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD NOT YET BEGUN TO CONSIDER US REQUEST DUE TO ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH "MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS",
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SUCH AS VISITS OF SECRETARY VANCE IN JANUARY AND OF FIVE US SENATORS IN FEBRUARY. OZGUL TOOK PAINS, HOWEVER, TO STRESS THAT ABSENCE OF RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED BY US AS POLITICAL SIGNAL OF ANY KIND. HE HOPED TO HAVE REPLY FOR US THE NEXT DAY.

3. IT HAD NOT COME BY MARCH 24. EMBASSY DOBUTS THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION, INCLUDING THE TURKISH MILITARY, ARE

GOING TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO SPEED THEIR ANSWER. PRIME MINISTER
ECEVIT RESTATES ALMOST DAILY HIS PIQUE AT WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO
HAVE BEEN SECRETARY VANCE'S LINKAGE OF CYPRUS WITH DCA. FREE
ASSOCIATION IN MINDS OF TURKISH OFFICIALS OF OUR REQUEST
FOR SPECIAL USE OF A COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATION WITH LONG-LANGUISHING

DCA IS NATURAL AND HEIGHTENED BY MR. ECEVIT'S OUTBURSTS.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NOTHING IS TO BE GAINED IN PRESSING
THE MATTER FOR THE MOMENT. WE REGRET THE UNCERTAINTY AND
INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS DELAY IS CAUSING NASA.
SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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